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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-17, and 19 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, and 11-14 are amended to more clearly define the invention and claims 2, 6, 10, and 18 are canceled. Claims 1, 5, 7, and 12-14 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 2-3 and 7-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This Amendment amends claim 1 to incorporate the features of allowable claim 2, cancels claim 2, rewrites claims 7, and 12-14 into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, amends claim 3 to depend from amended claim 1, adds new claim 20 which incorporates the features of claim 4, but depends from allowable claim 3, amends claim 8 to depend from allowable claim 1, and cancels claim 10.

In summary, this Amendment amends the claims to place claims 1, 3-4, 7-9, and 12-17, and 19 into condition for allowance.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims, including claims 5 and 11 are allowable.

Claims 1 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Taranto reference in view of the Palmquist reference.

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This rejection is respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example, independent claim 5, is directed to a lid lock apparatus for a glove box, which is attached to inside of a lid to engage hook portions with the glove box, the lid lock apparatus includes a swing member, a pair of lock arms, and a subassembly member. The swing member has a swing axis which is swingably supported by a lid of the glove box. The pair of lock arms are disposed in a symmetrical manner with respect to the swing axis and extend in a horizontal direction. Each of the lock arms includes a hook portion at a tip end thereof. The swing member is adapted to position the pair of lock arms in at least one of an extended position and a retracted position. The subassembly member holds the pair of lock arms at the retracted position without user intervention. The swing member is disposed in a symmetrical manner with respect to the swing axis and includes a pair of cam grooves. The lock arms include cam pins for engaging with the cam grooves to move the lock arms in opposite directions. The subassembly member includes a spring, one end of which is engaged with one of the lock arms and the other end of which is engaged with the other of the lock arms. The hook portion is biased and engaged with the glove box when the one end of the spring is changed in an engagement destination thereof to the lid from the lock arm.

Conventional lid locks have included a pair of hooks and a link mechanism for coupling the hooks attached within a lid which increases the complexity of assembly and, as a result, increases the cost (page 2, lines 17-23).

Further, these conventional lid locks require adjustment to ensure smooth movement

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of the hooks which also increases the complexity of assembly and an increase in cost (page 2, lines 23-27).

Additionally, conventional lid locks require delivery of a number of individual parts which must then be assembled to the lid. This increases the risk of missing parts and management of parts. (Page 3, lines 1-4).

In stark contrast, the present invention provides a lid lock that includes a subassembly for holding a pair of lock arms and a swing member in a compacted subassembly state where the hook portion is biased and engaged with the glove box when the one end of the spring is changed in an engagement destination thereof to the lid from the lock arm. In this manner, the present invention makes assembly and adjustment easier, reduces the number of working processes in the assembly, reduces the cost and makes management of the parts easier (page 3, lines 7-13).

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that the Palmquist reference would have been combined with the Taranto reference to form the claimed invention. Applicants submit, however, that the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including a hook portion that is biased and engaged with the glove box when one end of the spring is changed in an engagement destination thereof to the lid from the lock arm as recited by independent claim 5.

As explained above, this feature is important for making assembly and adjustment easier, reducing the number of working processes in the assembly, reducing the cost, and

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making management of the parts easier.

Indeed, the Examiner does not allege that the applied references teach or suggest this feature.

Rather, and in stark contrast, the Palmquist reference merely discloses a spring 33 which only engage the lock arms and does not teach or suggest changing an engagement destination of one end the spring to the lid from a lock arm so that the hook portion is biased and engaged with the glove box.

The Taranto reference does not remedy the deficiencies of the Palmquist reference.

While the Taranto reference appears to discloses a spring 28 having one end that always engages a lock arm on a spring retention nib 73 and another end that always engages a spring capture member 70 on the support member 18, the Taranto reference does not teach or suggest changing an engagement destination of any spring at all, let alone changing an engagement destination of one end of the spring to the lid from a lock arm so that the hook portion is biased and engaged with the glove box.

The applied references only disclose a spring which either engages both lock arms OR engages a support member and a lock, the applied references clearly do not teach or suggest changing an engagement destination of one end the spring, let alone changing the engagement destination to the lid from a lock arm as recited by independent claim 5.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 5.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-17, and 19, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are

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patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

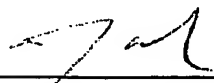
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.116 by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Gary Wayne Estremsky, Group Art Unit 3676 at fax number (571) 273-8300 this 8th day of September, 2005.


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